

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This office action is in responsive to the paper filed on July 16th, 2007.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - The claimed invention is a health assessor for assessing health of a target element within a multi-element system.
 - The claimed method include a limitation, in light of the specification, "a probabilistic reasoning network coupled to the evaluators to receive the assessment from each of the evaluators [Bayesian network, page 18, line 20 – 23, Fig. 6] and to analyze the assessments in accordance with a pre-configured reasoning definition so as to provide an overall probabilistic health assessment of the target element, the probabilistic reasoning network to analyze the assessments from the evaluators according to information indicating reliabilities of the respective evaluators" [to estimate, to compute the overall probabilistic health report, page 18, lines 9 – 19]. [further see specification page 18, line 9 – page 19, line 11; and page 23, line 16 – page 24, line 1]
 - The combination of prior art of record does not expressly disclose or suggest the "health assessor" with the feature of "a probabilistic reasoning network coupled to the evaluators to receive the assessment from each of the evaluators and to analyze the assessments in accordance with a pre-configured reasoning definition so as to provide an overall probabilistic health assessment of the target element, the probabilistic reasoning network to analyze the assessments from the evaluators according to information indicating reliabilities of the respective evaluators".
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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4. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claims 1 – 6 and 8 – 20 are deemed allowable.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunray R. Chang who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. via telephone number (571) 272-3682 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3682 or email sunray.chang@uspto.gov.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on (571) 272-3080.

6. The official facsimile transmission number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Albert DeCady/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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